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Brussels, 22 May 1987

**THE COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES
RESUME THEIR JOINT LOCUST CONTROL EFFORTS IN SUDAN**

Mr. Lorenzo Natali will today receive Mr. A.H. Kingon, the US Ambassador, who will hand him a cheque for US\$ 600 000 as a further contribution from the United States to the locust control programme in Sudan.

Mr Natali will express to Mr Kingon the Commission's satisfaction at the fact that the United States has renewed its commitment to locust control in Sudan and is continuing to coordinate its efforts with other donors, including the Commission and the Member States.

The Commission and the United States had already signed an agreement in July 1986 on a one-million dollar contribution from the United States to locust control in Sudan, and this came on top of the Commission's own contribution for Sudan of 1.7 million ECU. Close collaboration was established on the spot between the Community, its Member States, the FAO and the United States, which were all involved in this campaign.

Since 1986, a year of acute locust infestation, the Community has taken numerous steps to combat this pest in Africa.

The Commission and the Member States launched various emergency operations last year to the tune of 22.6 million ECU (Commission - 9.2 million ECU, and the Member States - 13.4 million ECU). This year, the Commission has already granted emergency to 16 African countries, the aim being to finance the first stage of the campaign to halt the proliferation of the grasshoppers. Pesticide has been supplied and technical assistance provided for a total of 2.2 million ECU. Since 1982, 7.3 million ECU has been provided to assist the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa.

The Commission has also created an early warning system based on the information regularly transmitted by its delegates and has set up a task force responsible for assessing how the situation is developing, proposing any measures which need to be taken, and mobilizing aid.